

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01

COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03

STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /111 W
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R 230712Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3780

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, EINV, SY, US

SUBJ: FOLLOWUP ON CRITICISM OF TRIPCO OIL CONCESSION IN
PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

REF: DAMASCUS 2102 (NOTAL)

1. LATEST ISSUE OF COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER "PEOPLE'S
STRUGGLE" DATED "MID-JUNE" 1975 PROVIDES FURTHER DETAILS
ON PEOPLE'S COUNCIL DEBATE. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER,
TRIPCO AGREEMENT WAS CRITICIZED AND DEFENDED BY NUMBER
OF DEPUTIES BEFORE ITS ULTIMATE RATIFICATION. CRITICS
INCLUDED COMMUNISTS, AT LEAST ONE SOCIALIST UNIONIST, AND
SEVERAL DEPUTIES WHOSE PARTY AFFILIATIONS NOT DESIGNATED.
CRITICISM FOCUSED ON FOUR ELEMENTS: (A) QUESTIONS RELATING
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STRICTLY TO TEXT OF AGREEMENT, E.G., CLAUSE REQUIRING PRE-

SENTATION OF INFORMATION "WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS" ALLEGEDLY AMBIGUOUS BECAUSE TEXT DOES NOT SPECIFY WHO WILL DEFINE "REASONABLE LIMITS", (B) POLITICAL MISTAKE OF CONCLUDING AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN COMPANY WHILE U.S. STILL "ORGANICALLY LINKED" WITH ISRAEL, (C) ECONOMIC ASPECT OF CONCLUDING AGREEMENT WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRY WHICH WILL SHARE IN SYRIAN PETROLEUM RESOURCES TO EXCLUSION OF "FRIENDLY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES", (D) DEFENSE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM PRESENCE OF AMERICAN COMPANY ON SYRIA'S MEDITERRANEAN COAST.

2. DURING FULBRIGHT VISIT EMBOFF DISCUSSED COMMUNIST PARTY CRITICISM OF TRIPCO AGREEMENT WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING HELOU, WHO REPLIED THAT COMMUNISTS HAD LATER "APOLOGIZED" FOR THEIR ATTACKS AND THAT THESE PROBLEMS HAD NOT CAUSED ANY CHANGE WHATSOEVER IN SYRIAN DESIRE TO ATTRACT AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS.

3. PRESIDENT ASAD ALSO REITERATED TO SENATOR FULBRIGHT THAT AMERICAN FIRMS WERE WELCOME IN SYRIA.

4. SYRIAN PRESS JUNE 16 REPORTED THAT CANADIAN SHIP "BELONGING TO AMERICAN TRIPCO CO." HAD ARRIVED AT LATAKIA AND BEGUN PRELIMINARY OFFSHORE SEISMIC WORK.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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